Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ordering products wherein the products are supplied by a supplier to a replenishment service center (RSC), wherein an acquiring entity obtains products from the RSC, comprising:

generating, by the acquiring entity, ~~an order to acquire a requested~~ a request for a quantity of products;

performing computer related operations to update a computerized inventory database with a product record including a requested quantity that the acquiring entity wants to receive of the product based on the generated order;

receiving, by the acquiring entity, a request from the supplier for information on the requested quantity from the product record in the inventory database and transmitting the requested information to the supplier in response to the request;

receiving information from the supplier indicating a commitment quantity of a number of the products the supplier intends to ship to the RSC to meet the requested quantity after the supplier requests information on the requested quantity, wherein the supplier uses the requested information to determine the commitment quantity to indicate;

performing computer related operations to update the inventory database with the information received from the supplier to indicate the commitment quantity; ~~and~~

performing computer related operations to update the inventory database from information received from the RSC indicating products shipped from the supplier for one specified product record; and

transmitting, by the acquiring entity, a pull order to the RSC to ship products to the acquiring entity that the supplier shipped to the RSC to satisfy the commitment quantity.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing product record information in the database to the acquiring entity, supplier, and RSC.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a number of days of supply of products at the RSC for a product represented by the product record; and

ordering an additional quantity of the products to the supplier if the determined number of days of supply for the product is less than a minimum threshold.

4.   (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

performing computer related operations to update the inventory database with information received from the acquiring entity for one product record indicating an order of products from the RSC to deliver to the acquiring entity to fulfill the order.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

determining a number of days of supply of products at the RSC for a product from information maintained in the product record as a function of the quantity of the products indicated in the product record as available at the RSC and an average acquiring entity order rate of the product from the RSC; and

transmitting an order for an additional quantity of the products to the supplier if the determined number of days of supply for the product is less than a minimum threshold.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the average acquiring entity order rate is determined from the product record information indicating a forecasted number of components to be ordered as indicated in the requested quantity information for the product record.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the average acquiring entity order rate is determined from the product record information indicating a number of the products the acquiring entity ordered from the RSC and a forecasted number of components to be ordered as indicated in the requested quantity information for the product record.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the acquiring entity, database, supplier, and RSC are capable of communicating over a network, further comprising:

transmitting over the network an input page in which the supplier and RSC enter data to update the inventory database.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the acquiring entity, database, supplier, and RSC are capable of communicating over a network, further comprising:

transmitting over the network an input page in which the supplier and RSC enter information to request product record information from the database;

receiving the input page transmitted by the supplier or RSC including a request for product record information;

generating an information page including product record information for the product record specified in the received input page; and

transmitting the information page to the requesting supplier or RSC over the network.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating a pre-shipment alert message to the RSC upon receiving the update to the database of the commitment quantity from the supplier.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the acquiring entity comprises a manufacturer and the products comprises parts that the manufacturer uses in the manufacture of a product.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating an invoice once the ordered products are delivered to the acquiring entity and confirmed by the supplier.

13.   (Currently Amended) A method for ordering products, wherein the products are supplied by a supplier to a replenishment service center (RSC), wherein an acquiring entity obtains products from the RSC, comprising the supplier:

performing computer related operations to access information in computerized inventory database including product records, wherein each product record indicates a specified product and a requested quantity the acquiring entity wants to receive, wherein the inventory data base is capable of being updated from: (i) information received from the acquiring entity to add a product record including a requested quantity that the acquiring entity wants to receive and (ii) information received from the RSC indicating products shipped from the supplier for one specified product record;

determining from the accessed information the requested quantity for one product record; and

performing computer related operations to update one product record in the inventory database indicating a commitment quantity of a number of the products the supplier intends to ship to the RSC to meet the requested quantity after the supplier determines the accessed information, wherein the supplier uses the accessed information to determine the commitment quantity to indicate.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

receiving an order for an additional quantity of the products for one product record from the acquiring entity if a acquiring entity determines that number of days of supply for the product is less than a minimum threshold.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the order is received from a acquiring entity.

16.   (Previously Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the supplier further performs:

performing computer related operations to update one product record in the inventory database indicating shipment status of products the supplier is shipping to the RSC to satisfy the commitment quantity for the product record being updated.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

receiving a message from the acquiring entity if the commitment quantity is less than the requested quantity for the product record.

18.   (Currently Amended) A method for ordering products, wherein the products are supplied by a supplier to a replenishment service center (RSC), wherein an acquiring entity obtains products from the RSC, comprising the RSC performing the steps of:

performing computer related operations to access information in computerized inventory database including product records, wherein each product record indicates a specified product and a requested quantity that the acquiring entity wants to receive; ~;~

performing computer related operation to receive a pull order from the acquiring entity for products provided by the supplier;

~wherein the inventory data base is capable of being updated from: (i)~ performing computer related operations to update one product record in the inventory database with: (i) information indicating products shipped to ~received from~ the acquiring entity in response to one pull order ~product record including a requested quantity that the acquiring entity wants to receive~ and (ii) information indicating products received from the supplier to satisfy ~indicating~ a commitment quantity of a number of the products the supplier is shipping ~intends to ship~ to the RSC to meet the requested quantity~; and~

~~performing computer related operations to update one product record in the inventory database indicating products received from the supplier for one specified product record.~~

19.   (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the RSC performs:

receiving an order from the acquiring entity computer for products for one product record to ship to the acquiring entity; and

updating the product record in the inventory database indicating products shipped from the RSC to the acquiring entity.

20.   (Currently Amended) A system for ordering products wherein the products are supplied by a supplier to a replenishment service center (RSC), wherein an acquiring entity obtains products from the RSC, comprising:

means for generating, ~~with the acquiring entity, an order to acquire a requested~~ a request for a quantity of products;

means for updating an inventory database with a product record including a requested quantity that the acquiring entity wants to receive of the product based on the generated order;

means for receiving a request from the supplier for information on the requested quantity from the product record in the inventory database and transmitting the requested information to the supplier in response to the request;

means for receiving information from the supplier indicating a commitment quantity of a number of the products the supplier intends to ship to the RSC to meet the requested quantity after the supplier requests information on the requested quantity, wherein the supplier uses the requested information to determine the commitment quantity to indicate;

means for updating the inventory database with the information received from the supplier to indicate the commitment quantity; ~~and~~

means for updating the inventory database from information received from the RSC indicating products shipped from the supplier for one specified product record; and

means for transmitting a pull order to the RSC to ship products to the acquiring entity that the supplier shipped to the RSC to satisfy the commitment quantity.

21.   (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:

means for providing product record information in the database to the acquiring entity, supplier, and RSC.

22.   (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:

means for determining a number of days of supply of products at the RSC for a product represented by the product record; and

means for ordering an additional quantity of the products to the supplier if the determined number of days of supply for the product is less than a minimum threshold.

23.   (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:

means for updating the inventory database with information received from the acquiring entity for one product record indicating an order of products from the RSC to deliver to the acquiring entity to fulfill the order.

24.   (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:

means for determining a number of days of supply of products at the RSC for a product from information maintained in the product record as a function of the quantity of the products indicated in the product record as available at the RSC and an average acquiring entity order rate of the product from the RSC; and

means for transmitting an order for an additional quantity of the products to the supplier if the determined number of days of supply for the product is less than a minimum threshold.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the average acquiring entity order rate is determined from the product record information indicating a forecasted number of components to be ordered as indicated in the requested quantity information for the product record.

26. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the average acquiring entity order rate is determined from the product record information indicating a number of the products the acquiring entity ordered from the RSC and a forecasted number of components to be ordered as indicated in the requested quantity information for the product record.

27. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the acquiring entity, database, supplier, and RSC are capable of communicating over a network, further comprising:

means for transmitting over the network an input page in which the supplier and RSC enter data to update the inventory database.

28. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the acquiring entity, database, supplier, and RSC are capable of communicating over a network, further comprising:

means for transmitting over the network an input page in which the supplier and RSC enter information to request product record information from the database;

means for receiving the input page transmitted by the supplier or RSC including a request for product record information;

means for generating an information page including product record information for the product record specified in the received input page; and

means for transmitting the information page to the requesting supplier or RSC over the network.

29. (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:

means for generating a pre-shipment alert message to the RSC upon receiving the update to the database of the commitment quantity from the supplier.

30.   (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the acquiring entity comprises a manufacturer and the products comprises parts that the manufacturer uses in the manufacture of a product.

31.   (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:

generating an invoice once the ordered products are delivered to the acquiring entity and confirmed by the supplier.

32.   (Currently Amended) A system for ordering products, wherein the products are supplied by a supplier to a replenishment service center (RSC), wherein an acquiring entity obtains products from the RSC, a supplier machine comprising:

means for accessing information in an inventory database including product records, wherein each product record indicates a specified product and a requested quantity the acquiring entity wants to receive, wherein the inventory data base is capable of being updated from: (i) information received from the acquiring entity to add a product record including a requested quantity that the acquiring entity wants to receive and (ii) information received from the RSC indicating products shipped from the supplier for one specified product record;

means for determining from the accessed information the requested quantity for one product record; and

means for updating one product record in the inventory database indicating a commitment quantity of a number of the products the supplier intends to ship to the RSC to meet the requested quantity after the supplier determines the accessed information, wherein the supplier uses the accessed information to determine the commitment quantity to indicate.

33.   (Original) The system of claim 32, further comprising:

means for receiving an order for an additional quantity of the products for one product record from the acquiring entity if a acquiring entity determines that number of days of supply for the product is less than a minimum threshold.

34.   (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein the order is received from a acquiring entity.

35.   (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the supplier machine further comprises:

means for updating one product record in the inventory database indicating shipment status of products the supplier is shipping to the RSC to satisfy the commitment quantity for the product record being updated.

36.   (Original) The system of claim 32, further comprising:

means for receiving a message from the acquiring entity if the commitment quantity is less than the requested quantity for the product record.

37.   (Currently Amended) A system for ordering products, wherein the products are supplied by a supplier to a replenishment service center (RSC), wherein an acquiring entity obtains products from the RSC, a RSC machine comprising:

means for accessing information in an inventory database including product records, wherein each product record indicates a specified product and a requested quantity that the acquiring entity wants to receive;

means for receiving a pull order from the acquiring entity for products provided by the supplier;

, wherein the inventory data base is capable of being updated from: updating one product record in the inventory database with: (i) information indicating products shipped to received from the acquiring entity in response to one pull order to add a product record including a requested quantity that the acquiring entity wants to receive and (ii) information indicating products received from the supplier to satisfy indicating a commitment quantity of a number of the products the supplier intends to ship is shipping to the RSC to meet the requested quantity; and

~~means for updating one product record in the inventory database indicating products received from the supplier for one specified product record.~~

38.   (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the RSC machine further comprises:

means for receiving an order from the acquiring entity computer for products for one product record to ship to the acquiring entity; and

means for updating the product record in the inventory database indicating products shipped from the RSC to the acquiring entity.

39.   (Currently Amended) A program for ordering products wherein the products are supplied by a supplier to a replenishment service center (RSC), wherein an acquiring entity obtains products from the RSC, comprising a computer usable media including at least one computer program embedded therein that is capable or causing at least one computer to perform:

generating, ~~with the acquiring entity, an order to acquire a requested~~ a request for a quantity of products;

updating an inventory database with a product record including a requested quantity that the acquiring entity wants to receive of the product based on the generated order;

receiving a request from the supplier for information on the requested quantity from the product record in the inventory database and transmitting the requested information to the supplier in response to the request;

receiving information from the supplier indicating a commitment quantity of a number of the products the supplier intends to ship to the RSC to meet the requested quantity after the supplier requests information on the requested quantity, wherein the supplier uses the requested information to determine the commitment quantity to indicate;

updating the inventory database with the information received from the supplier to indicate the commitment quantity;

updating the inventory database from information received from the RSC indicating products shipped from the supplier for one specified product record; and

transmitting a pull order to the RSC to ship products to the acquiring entity that the supplier shipped to the RSC to satisfy the commitment quantity.

40.   (Original) The program of claim 39, further performing:

providing product record information in the database to the acquiring entity, supplier, and RSC.

41.   (Original) The program of claim 39, further performing:

determining a number of days of supply of products at the RSC for a product represented by the product record; and

ordering an additional quantity of the products to the supplier if the determined number of days of supply for the product is less than a minimum threshold.

42.   (Original) The program of claim 39, further performing:

updating the inventory database with information received from the acquiring entity for one product record indicating an order of products from the RSC to deliver to the acquiring entity to fulfill the order.

43.   (Original) The program of claim 42, further performing:

determining a number of days of supply of products at the RSC for a product from information maintained in the product record as a function of the quantity of the products indicated in the product record as available at the RSC and an average acquiring entity order rate of the product from the RSC; and

transmitting an order for an additional quantity of the products to the supplier if the determined number of days of supply for the product is less than a minimum threshold.

44.   (Original) The program of claim 43, wherein the average acquiring entity order rate is determined from the product record information indicating a forecasted number of

components to be ordered as indicated in the requested quantity information for the product record.

45.   (Original) The program of claim 43, wherein the average acquiring entity order rate is determined from the product record information indicating a number of the products the acquiring entity ordered from the RSC and a forecasted number of components to be ordered as indicated in the requested quantity information for the product record.

46.   (Original) The program of claim 39, wherein the acquiring entity, database, supplier, and RSC are capable of communicating over a network, further performing:

transmitting over the network an input page in which the supplier and RSC enter data to update the inventory database.

47.   (Original) The program of claim 39, wherein the acquiring entity, database, supplier, and RSC are capable of communicating over a network, further performing:

transmitting over the network an input page in which the supplier and RSC enter information to request product record information from the database;

receiving the input page transmitted by the supplier or RSC including a request for product record information;

generating an information page including product record information for the product record specified in the received input page; and

transmitting the information page to the requesting supplier or RSC over the network.

48.   (Original) The program of claim 39, further performing:

generating a pre-shipment alert message to the RSC upon receiving the update to the database of the commitment quantity from the supplier.

49.   (Original) The program of claim 39, wherein the acquiring entity comprises a manufacturer and the products comprises parts that the manufacturer uses in the manufacture of a product.

50.   (Original) The program of claim 39, further performing:

generating an invoice once the ordered products are delivered to the acquiring entity and confirmed by the supplier.

51.   (Currently Amended) A program for ordering products, wherein the products are supplied by a supplier to a replenishment service center (RSC), wherein an acquiring entity obtains products from the RSC, comprising a computer usable media including at least one computer program embedded therein that is capable or causing at least one computer to perform:

accessing information in an inventory database including product records, wherein each product record indicates a specified product and a requested quantity the acquiring entity wants to receive, wherein the inventory data base is capable of being updated from: (i) information received from the acquiring entity to add a product record including a requested quantity that the acquiring entity wants to receive and (ii) information received from the RSC indicating products shipped from the supplier for one specified product record;

determining from the accessed information the requested quantity for one product record; and

updating one product record in the inventory database indicating a commitment quantity of a number of the products the supplier intends to ship to the RSC to meet the requested quantity after the supplier determines the accessed information, wherein the supplier uses the accessed information to determine the commitment quantity to indicate.

52.   (Original) The program of claim 51, further performing:

receiving an order for an additional quantity of the products for one product record from the acquiring entity if a acquiring entity determines that number of days of supply for the product is less than a minimum threshold.

53.   (Original) The program of claim 52, wherein the order is received from a acquiring entity.

54.   (Original) The program of claim 51, wherein the supplier further performs:

updating one product record in the inventory database indicating shipment status of products the supplier is shipping to the RSC to satisfy the commitment quantity for the product record being updated.

55.   (Original) The program of claim 51, further performing:

receiving a message from the acquiring entity if the commitment quantity is less than the requested quantity for the product record.

56.   (Currently Amended) A program for ordering products, wherein the products are supplied by a supplier to a replenishment service center (RSC), wherein an acquiring entity obtains products from the RSC, comprising a computer usable media including at least one computer program embedded therein that is capable or causing at least one computer to perform:

accessing information in an inventory database including product records, wherein each product record indicates a specified product and a requested quantity that the acquiring entity wants to receive:;

receiving a pull order from the acquiring entity for products provided by the supplier;

updating one product record wherein the inventory data base with is capable of being updated from: (i) information indicating products shipped to received from the acquiring entity in response to one pull order to add a product record including a requested quantity that the

~~acquiring entity wants to receive~~ and (ii) information <u>indicating products</u> received from the supplier ~~indicating~~ <u>to satisfy</u> a commitment quantity of a number of the products the supplier <u>is</u> shipping ~~intends to ship~~ to the RSC to meet the requested quantity~~; and~~

~~updating one product record in the inventory database indicating products received from the supplier for one specified product record.~~

57.   (Original) The program of claim 56, wherein the RSC performs:

receiving an order from the acquiring entity computer for products for one product record to ship to the acquiring entity; and

updating the product record in the inventory database indicating products shipped from the RSC to the acquiring entity.

58.   (Currently Amended) A method for purchasing products wherein the products are supplied by a supplier to a replenishment service center (RSC), wherein an acquiring entity obtains products from the RSC, comprising:

generating, ~~with~~ <u>by</u> the acquiring entity, an order to acquire a requested quantity of products;

performing computer related operations to update computerized inventory database with a product record including a requested quantity that the acquiring entity wants to receive of the product based on the generated order;

<u>receiving, by the acquiring entity, a request from the supplier for information on the requested quantity from the product record in the inventory database and transmitting the requested information to the supplier in response to the request;</u>

receiving information from the supplier indicating a commitment quantity of a number of the products the supplier intends to ship to the RSC to meet the requested quantity <u>after the supplier requests information on the requested quantity, wherein the supplier uses the requested information to determine the commitment quantity to indicate;</u>

performing computer related operations to update the inventory database with the information received from the supplier to indicate the commitment quantity;

performing computer related operations to update the inventory database from information received from the RSC indicating products shipped from the supplier for one specified product record;

performing computer related operations to update the inventory database with information received from the acquiring entity for one product record indicating an order of products from the RSC to deliver to the acquiring entity to fulfill the order; ~~and~~

transmitting, by the acquiring entity, a pull order to the RSC to ship products to the acquiring entity that the supplier shipped to the RSC to satisfy the commitment quantity;

generating an invoice once the ordered products are delivered to the acquiring entity and confirmed by the supplier.

59.   (Original) The method of claim 58, further comprising:

determining a number of days of supply of products at the RSC for a product represented by the product record; and

ordering an additional quantity of the products to the supplier if the determined number of days of supply for the product is less than a minimum threshold.

60.   (Original) The method of claim 58, further comprising:

determining a number of days of supply of products at the RSC for a product from information maintained in the product record as a function of the quantity of the products indicated in the product record as available at the RSC and an average acquiring entity order rate of the product from the RSC; and

transmitting an order for an additional quantity of the products to the supplier if the determined number of days of supply for the product is less than a minimum threshold.

61. (Original) The method of claim 60, wherein the average acquiring entity order rate is determined from the product record information indicating a forecasted number of components to be ordered as indicated in the requested quantity information for the product record.

62. (Original) The method of claim 60, wherein the average acquiring entity order rate is determined from the product record information indicating a number of the products the acquiring entity ordered from the RSC and a forecasted number of components to be ordered as indicated in the requested quantity information for the product record.

63. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein the acquiring entity, database, supplier, and RSC are capable of communicating over a network, further comprising:

transmitting over the network an input page in which the supplier and RSC enter data to update the inventory database.

64. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein the acquiring entity, database, supplier, and RSC are capable of communicating over a network, further comprising:

transmitting over the network an input page in which the supplier and RSC enter information to request product record information from the database;

receiving the input page transmitted by the supplier or RSC including a request for product record information;

generating an information page including product record information for the product record specified in the received input page; and

transmitting the information page to the requesting supplier or RSC over the network.

65. (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein the acquiring entity comprises a manufacturer and the products comprises parts that the manufacturer uses in the manufacture of a product.

66.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the commitment quantity is capable of being less than the requested quantity the acquiring entity indicated in the product record.

67.   (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the commitment quantity is capable of being less than the requested quantity the acquiring entity indicated in the product record.

68.   (New) The program of claim 39, wherein the commitment quantity is capable of being less than the requested quantity the acquiring entity indicated in the product record.

69.   (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the commitment quantity is capable of being less than the requested quantity the acquiring entity indicated in the product record.